

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

ISSUED BY THE  
**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

20 SEPTEMBER 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. USSR-  
Berlin

a. Khrushchev has again used talks with West European visitors to convey the impression that he has decided on a series of actions leading to a separate treaty with East Germany--these to begin shortly after our elections in November.

b. In separate talks with Austrian Vice Chancellor Pittermann and former Belgian Economics Minister Scheyven, he implied that the next two months might be the last chance to negotiate a Berlin settlement.

c. He said Gromyko, now in New York, has instructions to resume Berlin talks with Secretary Rusk.

d. There was nothing in Khrushchev's remarks to indicate any give in the Soviet position on Berlin.

e. One gathers from these talks, from Khrushchev's talk with Kroll [redacted]

[redacted] that Khrushchev expects little from the Rusk-Gromyko talks and that he will thereupon come to New York himself, first to see President Kennedy and ultimately, if nothing can be worked out, to present the Soviet case to the UN. His intention there would be to place responsibility on us for undesirable consequences before proceeding with the separate peace treaty.

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2. Cuba

a. Khrushchev, in his talk with Pittermann, took a tough line on Cuba; he contended that a US blockade of the island would be an act of war and that the USSR would use submarines and rockets to enforce its right of passage.

b. A Soviet international law expert spelled out the legal support for this position in yesterday's Pravda.

d. The West German Foreign Office has told us that Bonn is taking steps to bar Cuba as a destination for West German vessels under charter to the Bloc. The Germans hope other NATO countries will take similar action and thus forestall complaints from West German shippers. Three West German vessels are now under charter to the Bloc for trade with Cuba.

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### 3. Argentina

a. General Ongania, leader of rebellious "legalist" faction, returned last night to his supporters in the powerful Campo de Mayo garrison, having rejected President Guido's ultimatum to surrender.

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b. So far, both sides have shown customary reluctance to fight, but this crisis seems to be building up more steam than similar ones in the past. The odds would appear to be against the Campo de Mayo forces, particularly if this morning's press reports prove true--that garrisons in the hinterland who hold the balance of power side with government forces.

c. So far there has been no significant reaction from the civilian population.

### 4. Laos

a. Souvanna, still confident that North Vietnamese troops will withdraw, has told Ambassador Unger that he will call for an immediate investigation by the International Control Commission should any North Vietnamese troops remain in Laos after the 7 October deadline. We do not think he will press very hard to overcome Pathet Lao objections to such an investigation.

b. [redacted]

[redacted] Souvanna is worried and has asked his military headquarters in Khang Khay to keep close tabs on the Vietnamese as the deadline nears.

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c. France, it appears, is determined not to change the method of its aid to Laos, which it will limit to cultural and technical assistance. Paris will not join us in providing direct budgetary aid.

## 5. Brazil

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b. Former President Kubitschek (a Goulart booster) took occasion [redacted] to urge on Ambassador Gordon his view that it was of "utmost importance" that the visit be kept on schedule. It is needed, he said, to win Goulart back to the center and to provide occasion for the mass of Brazilian opinion to express itself in favor of the US.

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6. Yemen

a. We foresee a struggle for power in Yemen following the death yesterday (from natural causes) of 71-year-old Imam Ahmad and the accession of Crown Prince Badr.

b. Powerful tribal chiefs in the north have long resented the Imam's arbitrary designation of Badr as crown prince; they favor Imam Ahmad's brother, Prince Hasan, who is in New York heading the Yemeni delegation.

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USIB WATCH COMMITTEE MEETING--19 SEPTEMBER 1962

The United States Intelligence Board yesterday approved the report of its Watch Committee which addressed itself to Bloc military activities and recent developments in Berlin, Cuba, Southeast Asia, and the Sino-Indian border dispute.

The Committee did not see anything in these situations which would justify a change in the conclusion that the Communists do not intend in the immediate future to initiate direct military action. The Committee noted, however, that current and pending military exercises by Soviet and satellite forces in Eastern Europe will probably bring those forces up to peak combat readiness by 1 November.

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NOTES

- A. Algeria Algerians are going to the polls this morning with bloodshed and chaos in the background as Ben Bella's forces try to bring Wilaya IV (Algiers Region) troops to heel for "sabotaging" the elections.
- B. West Germany - Latin America [redacted] Bonn's Economics Minister Erhard made a poor impression at Sunday's meeting with Latin American representatives in Washington both because he sidestepped specific commitments and because he held forth at length on economic problems in the area which the Latin Americans are already all too familiar with. [redacted]
- C. Venezuela Communist-inspired terrorism is on the rise again in Venezuela accompanied by resumed rumblings of coup plotting [redacted] President Betancourt is taking it all in stride and officialdom in Caracas seems unperturbed.

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